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CLASSIFICATION

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Zonal Border Control in Thuringia, at Helmetstedt and in the Area West of Ratzburg

EVALUATION See below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 15 January to 7 February 1951

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 12 March 1951

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 15 January and 1 February 1951, it was learned [redacted] that a German VP Kommando of six to eight police and a Soviet detail of 12 soldiers, detached from the company in Sonneberg (M 51/J 40), were stationed at the border crossing point of Hoenbach (L 51/H 56). 25X1
2. The Soviet detachment in Koepfelsdorf (M 51/J 40) departed for an unknown destination during the second half of January. However, its quarters in Koepfelsdorf remained requisitioned.
3. The VP Kommando in Oberlind, previously numbering 20 police, was said to have been reinforced by police who were trained for customs duty. The area controlled by the Kommando extended from Hill No 546 in Isak as far as the northern border of Unterlind.
4. The VP Kommando in Unterlind, previously consisting of 20 police, was also reinforced by VP personnel trained for customs duty. The Kommando controlled the area from Unterlind as far as the northern border of Neundorf.
5. The Soviet detachment of 20 to 30 men in Heubisch left the village on 15 January for an unknown destination, leaving no military personnel behind. In the entire border control sector there were no indications of the construction of field fortifications or observation posts.
6. There were no changes in the distribution of border guard personnel in the Hildburghausen area on 5 February. No further civilian apartments were requisitioned for the quartering of Soviet troops. Patrol duty was performed only by VP personnel who had to report to the Soviet border guard headquarters at regular intervals. \*
7. The Soviet detachments in Sommersdorf, the brickyard in Offleben, and in Huetzensleben were relieved by Volkspolizei details of undetermined strength at the beginning of January.
8. A Soviet unit about the strength of one infantry platoon was still located in Harpke, about 5 km southeast of Helmetstedt, on 6 February. No quarters were made available for Soviet troops in the Helmetstedt-Huetzensleben border-sector.\*\*

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9. From the beginning of January to 7 February, no observations which indicated a change in border control by VP and Soviet personnel were made in the border area east of Ratzeburg.

10. The road-ward's hut (Strassenwaerterhaus) between Schlagbruegge and Zietzen, which was previously occupied by about 10 Soviet soldiers, was vacated at the end of January. The Soviet detail went to Schlage-dorf. The hut was empty on 7 February.

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25X1A \* [ ] Comment. [ ] reported at the beginning of January 1951 that the border guard detachments in the area south of Hildburghausen were to be, or have been, reinforced. The information was confirmed

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\*\* [ ] Comment. Agrees with a report of early January 1951 [ ]

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25X1A [ ] stated that there were no changes in the Salzwedel border area.

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